





# The American Socialist

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1914

## NEED INTERNATIONAL ACTION

There is greater need now than ever before of international action among the Socialists of the world. The Socialists of the warring European nations, as well as those of the nations at peace, must get in touch with each other and plan for the future.

The first step toward bringing this about has been made by the American Socialist party in sending its peace message to the Socialists of ten European nations. Any action taken by the international Socialist movement must be based on an intimate understanding of the big problems confronting the Socialists of all the nations involved.

The best explanation of the action taken by the German Socialists in meeting the war crisis is given by H. W. Lee, secretary of the British Socialist party, writing in Justice, the official organ of the British Socialists. He says:

"It is now becoming clear that, after the proclamation of martial law on July 31, the people of Germany were kept in ignorance of what was being done until Herrmann-Holweg made his statement on the Reichstag on August 4. Germany declared war on Russia on Saturday, August 1. This fact was known the same night in Copenhagen, but it was not known in Germany until Thursday, August 4, and then it was announced together with statements that both Russians and French had crossed the frontiers, thus making it appear to the whole nation that the war upon which it was entering was one of national defense.

Common justice in the mass of German people this should be known as widely as possible. It explains also how the Socialists in the Reichstag came to vote for the war credit."

This would indicate that the German Socialists are trained in giving their aid to their country.

The French and Belgian Socialists have issued a joint manifesto to Socialists of other nations. It is said that this manifesto is being broadcast through the German armies from French and Belgian airplanes.

This manifesto reviews the crisis which led to the present war, and expresses the fear that "the working class of Germany, deceived by the official news, had no accurate knowledge of the facts." It declares that "the French government was sincerely anxious for peace, and made every effort, in accordance with our demands, to maintain it."

But the German government would have no peace, and, under special pretext, invaded Belgium territory.

French Socialists, however, are not content, "which we submit to the judgment of the international proletariat, will suffice to show from what quarter the aggression came. We are convinced that we are only defending the independence and the autonomy of our country against German imperialism."

"We do not fight the German people, whose autonomy and independence we likewise respect. We are established, our action will be approved and joined in by the Socialists of Germany."

It is this complete understanding among all the Socialists of the world that must be brought about as soon as possible in order to secure a peace that will benefit the working class.

The Socialist party of America, occupying the strategic position that it does, should be the agency to restore world-wide action and understanding among Socialists.

## OUR NEXT SOCIALIST WEEK

Socialists in this country have gone through their first "Socialist Week." Reports coming from all parts of the country indicate that much good work was accomplished during this week. September 6 to 13, in many sections of the country.

This Socialist Week activity is being followed by an increased effort for the congressional campaign in November. The Socialist party of America, occupying the strategic position that it does, should be the agency to restore world-wide action and understanding among Socialists.

While every week should be a Socialist Week, for the struggle to achieve the aims and ambitions of Socialism never ends, yet we must all bear in mind that another Socialist Week is coming, that will call again for special effort.

The National Committee this year did not meet until the middle of May and this accounts for Socialist Week having been set for the week starting September 6. It is not too late to start Socialist Week starts May 1, known to Socialists the world over as "International Labor Day."

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Every day brings its new story of the peace movements by foreign countries seeking to work through President Wilson. There are repeated claims that working groups centering in New York are endeavoring to make the recent futile effort for peace end at Washington. This war will only be settled right when it is settled by the workers organized and expressing their desires through the International Socialist and Trade Union Congress.

# AGE OF MEAK MOTHERHOOD PAST

By META L. STERN  
Who translated August Bebel's "Woman" from German into English.

FOR ages the mothers of the world have borne and reared sons to be sacrificed on the bloody battle-fields of warring nations. For ages, generation upon generation, this slaughter of youth, this cruel despoiling of motherhood, has gone on and on unchecked, and the mothers of the world have never been asked whether the goal was worth the price.

They have never been asked whether they approved the butchery of their sons as a means of settling international disputes. The women of the world have never been asked whether the goal was worth the price.

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The mother's voice, the mother's influence, not only in the homes of men, but also in the home of mankind, is the crying need of the hour. The present, gigantic European conflict, the greatest, the most appalling the world has ever known, that is blasting a million women's lives, will make women think as they never have thought before.

Although for the time being it has almost obliterated the woman's influence, this war will nevertheless give the movement for woman's complete emancipation a new significance. If, in the light of twentieth century civilization, with all its wonderful achievements of manual skill and mental ingenuity, men—governing the world alone—can still lead humanity into such an abyss, if even the workers of the world, with all their dreams of international brotherhood, have been unable to avert the present mad rush into mutual destruction, then the coming of women into power must be regarded as mankind's hope and salvation.

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## SOCIALISM AND LANGUAGE

The Socialist party now has an organ belonging to the party itself. The Socialist publications have existed in defiance of their own theory of common ownership, and have been conducted by proprietary management. In the American Socialist, published weekly at Chicago, the party has a newspaper which is free from the criticism of an illogical existence.

Also the Socialists are to be congratulated at last having an official organ which speaks much the same language as the rest of newspaperdom. The party has a newspaper which is free from the criticism of an illogical existence.

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## Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

STARS WAS—FRED ARBERG. I am glad to read the article, "Stars Was—Fred Arberg." In the August 22nd issue of The American Socialist, the article by Fred Arberg, the party has a newspaper which is free from the criticism of an illogical existence.

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## Reading Notices.

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